

THE

BRIDGE



Volume I No. 2

Elkhart, Indiana

July 14, 1971

Church Community Services Summer Youth Programs

by Dave Janzen

Church Community Services, an outreach agency of about two dozen Elkhart churches, has from its conception three years ago placed heavy emphasis upon working with the young people of Elkhart.

This emphasis has taken the form of boys' and girls' clubs, summer camping, bus trips, and recreational programs. Through these programs, CCS hopes to provide meaningful structured activity for the children who might not otherwise get these opportunities, and to nurture Christian growth among them.

One of the most active portions of this summer's activities is the camping program. With the cooperation of several church camps of different denominations in the Michiana area, CCS is sponsoring about 100 youth from ages 8 to 16 to a week of resident camping. These camps are open to various age groups through the summer, and offer recreation, cabin living experiences and guidance in the Christian faith. Financial assistance is provided to those unable to meet the total costs of camping.

The "Summer Fun" bus trips include adventures to such diverse places as Storyland Zoo in South Bend, the Museum of Science and Industry and a White Sox game in Chicago, Kellogg's and Bird Sanctuary in Battle Creek and the Elkhart County fair. Eighteen trips in total have been scheduled under the sponsorship of the YM and YWCA, Salvation Army, and CCS. The children are charged only for admission fees to the different places, and \$.20 for insurance.

Church Community Services also provides adult programs with financial assistance in emergency situations, housing loans and consultation, and in moving or clean-up work. Anyone interested in CCS programs should contact either Dave Janzen at 293-1910 or Bob Bartel at 293-0789, or come to the CCS office, 1703 Benham Ave., Elkhart, Ind.

Bridge To Continue Publication

We are proud that this is the second edition of *The Bridge*. As you are aware, *The Bridge* is produced and published by volunteer journalists of Elkhart's black community. The viewpoints and perspectives are their own. Coordination is done by the Elkhart Urban League. *The Bridge* is not an official voice of any one segment of the community. It is to be published bi-monthly close to the 15th and 30th of the month.

Subscription may be obtained by writing to: *The Bridge*, 820 Wolf Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana. Persons of the community desiring information to be printed in *The Bridge* must deliver it to the above address 4 days prior to the above dates. *The Bridge* is to serve the black community of Elkhart. News pertaining to the community will be published simply by contacting us.

Also, we still need persons who are interested in volunteering some time for the paper in the following areas: Typing, layout and design, circulation and photography. We would be willing to train you in the above positions.

Volunteers Invited

Frank Sohar, Director of Switch Board Concern which operates at 126 South Second Street (basement of Primley House) invites volunteers to report for a training program scheduled for July 17 and July 24 (8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

Switch Board Concern is in need of persons to man the phones when people call this agency to discuss a problem or a difficult situation they are facing.

For further information, please contact Mr. Sohar at 522-9551.



Trips, recreation, fun the CCs gets it all together for youth this summer. M. Smith and D. Janzen registers kids for a trip to Chicago to see the White Sox play.

Agency Formed Here

The Elkhart City Bar Association recently formed a new corporation known as Elkhart Legal Aid Service, Inc. An office is now being set up in the Red Cross building at 306 West High Street.

The Bar Association, recognizing the fact that there are many persons unable, because of financial distress, to obtain legal counsel, has asked each of its members to donate funds for the Legal Aid operation.

A qualified attorney has been obtained on a half-time basis to operate as Legal Director of the Service. A full-time secretary will be on duty during regular hours to help anyone seeking legal aid.

The service in the near future hopes to work with juvenile, welfare, and landlord-tenant cases, where the cost of an attorney would prohibit families from seeking legal help.

The criteria for qualifying people to obtain the new service has not yet been set forth. For the present the service will be available only for residents of Elkhart. It will not be available to someone where there is a possibility of the recovery of funds, such as law suits for damages and divorce with alimony situations.

At the present time the scope of services that will be available and the eligibility for these services is not entirely known. The Elkhart Legal Aid Service hopes to utilize the services of Notre Dame law students to help with the overload of cases that are sure to come.

Most of the guidelines for the service are being taken from other communities, both larger and smaller than Elkhart, that have well-established legal aid programs.

The Elkhart Legal Aid Service has been incorporated as a non-profit corporation, which would make any donations from individuals to help support the program a tax exemption.

Need A Job?

If you are between the ages of 14 and 19 and would like a summer job, come to the Sophomore Division of Elkhart High School on Second and High Streets between 9:00-12:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. The Neighborhood Youth Corps is sponsoring a six to eight week program paying youth \$1.60 per hour for a maximum of 26 hours per week. If you would like more information, call 524-1868, Ex. 35.

The Ivory Korner

May 17th!!!

The violent racial confrontation that ripped through the Elkhart Community Schools on May 17, 1971, and made it necessary to close the doors for four days was inevitable. Both black and white students have

been begging 'responsible' adult leaders to listen. They have done this in their loudest way - overt behavior in the form of verbal fights, spasmodic physical assaults upon each other, costly acts of vandalism, and insubordination to their parents, teachers, and other meaningful adult persons in their life. Their passive aggressive behavior - sullen stubbornness, frequent tardiness or absenteeism, physical presence in school but saying or doing nothing - only looks of smoldering hostility. But all of us adults refused to listen, to recognize what we were observing. We repeatedly reacted to crises, gave out polite rhetoric and promises of acting on and in behalf of the students, but became too busy or developed a severe case of 'temporary amnesia' - until another crisis befell the school and-or the community. And so, approximately 50 miles from Elkhart, a racial fight started by a young group of white non-residents of Elkhart, later joined by Elkhart youths against a small minority of black kids on Sunday spilled over and into Monday morning Elkhart school classes. Why? A night, eight hours at least, had passed before all of these same kids joined each other in school (not necessarily the classroom). Why did they resume a fight that they really hadn't started? Did these students - black and white - go to bed with anger toward each other, arise with anger, and then enter the school with the same? The fight can only be seen as the precipitating factor for a set of "anti-feelings" on the part of both races of students. It was a fight Sunday, it could easily have been something else more serious. It was just a matter of time - Sunday, Monday; May, June; - the racial confrontation was inevitable and we of the school, home, church, and wider community saw but refused to see, to deal with it. As it is true of most human beings, to deal with anger - be it our own or others - is pretty uncomfortable.



Mrs. G. L. Ivory
Administrative Assistant For
Community Relations
Elkhart Community Schools

Letters To The Editor

Dear Hubert:

Just a note to tell you I think "The Bridge" is great. I surely hope you'll be able to continue its publication and if there is any way we can help out, please let us know.

Congratulations again on your newspaper. -

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Patricia Higbee
Executive Director, Y.W.C.A.

Dear Mr. Brown:

I picked up a copy of "The Bridge" at Partly Dave's and thought it was very well done!

I hope "The Bridge" will live up to its name. I don't need to tell you how badly Elkhart needs it.

Best wishes,
Carlee Mitchell

BLACK UNITY

Most Black people agree that what we as a people need more than anything else is unity. This problem was foremost in our minds when we formulated the idea of a Black Unity Conference. We recognized that unity can be brought about through various means, however, we felt that in order to bring about a lasting unity, programs which benefit the masses of Black people must be developed. To some extent certain local organizations have managed to unify certain elements of the Black Community, through their various programs however, none have succeeded in bringing the masses of Black people truly together.

The first area wide BLACK UNITY CONFERENCE is only five weeks away. We are asking all brothers, sisters, organizations and social groups to come on out and support this first conference of such a magnitude. The program is as follows.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

(Liberation School)

Registration

7:00 p.m.

(Lasalle High School)

Welcome Address

Introduction of Executive Committee, Coordinating Committee and Resource People.

8:00 p.m.

(Lasalle High School)

Keynote Speaker

Sister Barbara Seizmore, of the Woodlawn Experimental School, Chicago, Illinois.

Black Poet Sister Mari Evans

Performanre. Black Arts Theatre Group

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

(Liberation School)

Registration

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

(Hansel Center and

Model Cities)

Workshops

12:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

12:45 p.m.

Black Artist Speaker

Brother Dan Danner.

'Top Ten' Notes

The Top Ten is in the process of organizing a Friendship Day which will be held Saturday, July 31, 1971, at Rice Field. Local talent will provide entertainment. The goal of Friendship Day is to promote harmony from within the community.

August 28th will mark Eric Barnes Day in Elkhart. The Top Ten will act as co-ordinators for this event. Any person interested in participating in this activity, please call John Coley (522-9557) or LeRoy Robinson (522-3350).

The Club is presently working with Ulrey School playground supervisors. There are plans being made for a cook out which will include the children who are in the program.

"Black is beautiful" and so is the lovely daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, 403 Cleveland Ave., Elkhart. Gail Wilson is 14 and a student at Pierre Moran Junior High School.



CONFERENCE

founder of Harambee Living Art Gallery, Elkhart, Indiana

Brother Luther Hicks, founder of Dignity House, Indianapolis, Indiana

2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

(Hansel Center and Model Cities)

Workshops

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Evening Program

Keynote Speaker,

Brother Dudley Randall, founder of Broadside Press, publishing Company, Detroit, Michigan

Cultural Art Festival

Black Poet, Sister Sonia Sanchez of New York, N.Y.

Chicago Drums Unlimited of Chicago, Ill.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

(Hansel Center and Model Cities)

Final Workshop Sessions

1:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

2:30 p.m.

(Lasalle High School)

Speaker Brother Norman Dixon, Black Educator, University of Pittsburgh

4:00 p.m.

(Lasalle High School)

Workshops, Resolutions and Conclusions

7:00 p.m.

(Lasalle High School)

Evening Program

Keynote Speaker, Rev.

Albert Cleage, Jr., Pastor,

Shrine of the Black

Madonna, Detroit,

Michigan

Final Remarks,

Chairman

Brother Willie O. Coates,

Jr.

Cultural Arts Festival

ADDRESSES OF LOCATIONS

Liberation School, 1231 W. Washington St. Phone 233-7214

Hansel Center, 1045 W. Washington St. Phone 234-6041

Model Cities, 1002 W. Thomas St. Phone 284-9335

Lasalle High School, 2701 Ellwood St. Phone 234-1083

Registration Fee: \$5.00 adults and non-student; \$3.00 student



Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, newly appointed Executive Director of the National Urban League.

Jordan Replaces Young As Urban League Head

by Sylvia Heise

No racist's rage or bigot's bullet downed Whitney Young. His heart, overworked and drained by a pace no organ could long endure, simply gave out. That's a real frustration to us mourners. With King and the Kennedys, we had targets for our anger. But how can we vent our wrath upon a heart that could take no more?

Really, we must acknowledge that we helped to sap that strength ourselves. We were among those who clamored for Young's personal attention, and he came to walk and speak in Elkhart. Our daily newspaper printed his syndicated column, so he spent long, late hours laboring over words to help us understand. But Whitney Young would have changed none of this. He died the death of a real hero — one who'd pumped all his life's energy into a cause in which he fiercely believed.

For this dedicated mentor who staunchly nurtured and led our Urban League through almost a decade of troubled times, we are more grateful than we can ever express. His death was more than untimely — it was a slap in the face. "Why?" we cried. "How?" we moaned. "Who?" we agonized.

"Why?" There's no real answer. Why does any man in the prime of his usefulness suddenly die? We can't let ourselves despair for long. Despair is certainly no tribute to Whitney Young. He lived a life of hope; caring, building and moving ahead. We must not stop here.

"Who?" On June 15, the Urban League decided who would be named to take over its key role. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., a 35-year-

old, tall, broad shouldered "young man with an old head" was appointed executive director.

Mr. Jordan went through high school in Atlanta, Georgia, graduated from DePauw University (the only black student in his class when he entered) in Greencastle, Indiana, and from the Howard University School of Law. He has been field director of the N.A.A.C.P. in Georgia and director of the Voter Education Project for the Southern Regional Council.

Jordan is presently executive director of the United Negro College Fund and he plans to complete this year in that position so that he can fulfill his commitment to lead a \$10 million drive for the United Negro College Fund, which helps support 36 Black colleges that have 40,000 students. Until next year, then, Harold R. Sims, deputy director of the Urban League, will continue as acting director.

Selection of Jordan by the League was made on the recommendation of 9-member sub-committee that spent almost

2 months in a nationwide search for a successor to Young. Jordan first came into national prominence in 1961 in the Civil Rights Movement when he used his body to shield Carlayne Hunter (now a reporter for the New York Times) as she entered the University of Georgia through a mob of white protesters. That historic moment signaled the start of integration in southern schools.

"How?" What will Mr. Jordan's methods be? When asked such a question, he answered, "My approach will be my approach, whether that will be interpreted as radical, moderate, or conservative will not be for me to judge."

Among the musical selections heard at Whitney Young's funeral was Miss Leontyne Price's singing of "Climb Every Mountain." Whitney Young lived that song. Now we must join Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., and continue that climb until we "find our dream" . . . or, more realistically, until we make our dream a reality in the world, in the U.S.A., in Indiana and in Elkhart.

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Staff for this edition: Editor: Hubert L. Brown, Copy Editor: Tim Lind, Copy: Sam Henderson, Sylvia Heise, Goldie Ivory, Rev. T. E. Cooper, David Janzen, Hubert L. Brown, Layout Design: Tim Lind, Hubert Brown, Photographers: Frank Sohar, John Wilson, Typists: Sue Brower, Helen Brown, Advisors: Dr. J. Daniel Hess, Howard Veal.



Mr. Bill Phillips, Manager, Elkhart Municipal Airport.

Airport Manager Recommends Aviation

by Hubert L. Brown

Little over two years ago the Board of Aviation Commissioners of Elkhart selected Bill Phillips to manage the city's municipal airport. Phillips who had been working 22 years in industry and was at that time serving as city councilman, left his post to assume leadership of the airport. "Basically the job as airport manager is to administer the day to day operation of the airport," says Phillips.

"We are the landlords. We act on behalf of the city of Elkhart and the Board of Aviation Commissioners," Phillips further explained. Since his appointment, the airport and the commissioners have come under attack. Phillips believes that the feedback is not necessarily aimed at him. "I don't think it's against me, but against airports in general. I think it's the times in which we live, where persons are concerned about ecology, etc.," explained Phillips. He further added, "I came on the job with no experience; it's been a learning experience. I have had good cooperation with the administration. The fact that these

people allowed me to do the job with no experience, certainly I am appreciative of this, and this fact should be noted."

A great deal of progress has taken place to develop and expand the airport facilities. As Phillips noted, "the construction of a control tower in the last six months and the lengthening of a runway are a part of the expansion of airport services."

Bill Phillips is proud of the opportunity to work in such a fast-growing field. He encourages young blacks to seriously consider the aviation field. "Black young people might want to take a look at the air transportation industry as a lifetime vocation. There are a lot of opportunities for Negroes. It's a big field and it's growing," stated Phillips. He also expressed his willingness to talk to youth about it.

In discussing the whole idea of black capitalism and enterprises, Phillips noted, "I think that it is a good idea for black to become a part of the free enterprise system. We should not attempt to build black businesses, we should build businesses that are com-

plete and integrated." He further clarified by saying, "I see nothing wrong with a black business that is serving the needs of black people; but when the business is being conceived, I think it should be set up to serve the needs of the total society." Phillips's personal philosophy is that as black people "we seem to function better in an integrated society; ball players, you name it; and I think this is the way it should be."

Bill Phillips is a native of Elkhart; he resides here with his wife and four children. He says, "Elkhart is a good community in which to live, Elkhart has problems, the same as elsewhere; Elkhart has the making to be a model community if they want to put forth the effort."

Functioning many long hours each week as manager of the airport is no easy task. It takes a person who is genuinely committed to making the airport an attractive and well organized place. Bill Phillips is giving the municipal airport just the ingredients it needs to meet the fast growing and expanding services of the seventies.

H.O.M.E., Inc. Scores A Double Header

Since the last issue of "The Bridge," H.O.M.E., Inc. has made homeownership a reality for two more families.

The house on 726 Cleveland was purchased by Mrs. Doretha Echols, mother of five. Mrs. Idessia Lewis and her three children will reside at their newly rehabilitated home on 622 Thomas. Once more H.O.M.E. has demonstrated what can be done if given the proper tools.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile effort, contact LeRoy Robinson, Director of H.O.M.E., Inc. at 820 West Wolf (522-3350).

Partly Dave's
114 S. Main

Fri., Sat., and Sun.

Music... Rapping... People

Today's Quote

Trying to please everyone pleases no one.

What you put off today you'll probably put off again.

Happiness adds up to different things for every person.

July At St. James AME

Six persons from the black community have recently studied at Goshen College, five of whom are members of the St. James A.M.E. church, and a member from the Canaan Baptist Church. Also in attendance were persons from surrounding communities.

Mrs. Eloise Cooper, the director of the St. James Community Day Care Center, Mrs. Carnetis Jackson, Mrs. Harvey Gamble, Mrs. Stephanie Gregroy, Mrs. Mae Redding, and Mrs. Sandra Williams, teachers in the center, attended special courses in "Training and Education of Young Children." Many professional personalities from within and without the state of Indiana taught and lectured at this institute. Mrs. Kathryn Aschleman and Dr. Yoder were the professors in charge of the studies.

The theme of the Convention is: "Our Mission In Times of Uncertainty." The convention will take up and deal with the subjects of dope, sex, responsibilities of christians, and our mission amid the trails of life. The convention will end on Sunday, July 25, 1971.

The summer programs are in full swing at the St. James A.M.E. church. The Salvation Army is using the parking lot at the rear of the church for a summer youth project that includes games, crafts, and refreshments every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. Monday evening exercise classes are being enjoyed by many of our young ladies of Elkhart. Mrs. Christine Edgerton is the instructor. The time for the exercise class is 7:00 P.M. each Monday night.

The St. James Community Day Care Center will open in September. Applications are now ready for the public.

Miss Vickie Littleton, Miss Barbara Branch, Mrs. Harvey Gamble, and Mrs. LeRoy Gregory will leave by chartered flight for Los Angeles, California to attend the 7th Quadrennial Convention of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Missionary Department. The program includes an evening session at the Hollywood Bowl and a Banquet at the Hollywood Palladium, 6215 Sunset Blvd. The featured speaker will be the dynamic Mr. Julian Bond. The young ladies will leave Chicago at 4:00 P.M., July 17, 1971. Rev. Thomas E. Cooper, Mrs. Eloise Cooper, Thomas Cooper, Jr., Glenn Anthony Cooper, and Mrs. Eliza Gregory will make the trip by automobile.

Opportunities

Immediate openings in our Trust Department for a competent secretary and for clerk-typists. Must have good clerical and typing ability with dictaphone knowledge. Some office experience is helpful. Call Personnel Department for interview.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

293-5521

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, Elkhart, Indiana.

